

# R2 –WEEKLY BULLETIN

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## IT TIP of the Week TAKE A NUMBER....

By Marcia Edwards  
IT Services Branch

Just a reminder: For IT assistance and security requests, you must submit an email to **FEMA-R2-Helpdesk**. Please refrain from phone calls and walk-ins unless you're unable to submit a Helpdesk ticket. Critical IT requests are the only exceptions.

Put a brief description of the IT problem in the subject line. Add any other pertinent details in the body of the message, which should include your office location; details of the IT problem; and due date, if the IT problem requires a completion date.

You can review the status of the helpdesk tickets by clicking on the R2-HelpDesk within the Outlook public folder.

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## FEMA PUTS KIDS ONLINE



FEMA donated 370 surplus, pre-used computers to 26 public schools and six private non-profit organizations in Puerto Rico. The gift was made in coordination with the Office of the Governor, the PR Department of Education and the General Services Administration (GSA), under the GSA's "Computers For Learning Program," which helps schools with financial constraints obtain excess equipment from federal agencies.

## FACE TIME IN REGION II



By Michael Moriarty, Acting Regional Administrator

Even in the era of Web 2.0 communication, there is still no substitution for face-to-face communications. So, in a continuing effort to foster robust communications with our states and territories, and to maintain alignment between their efforts and ours, we have scheduled a series of quarterly, live (not virtual) meetings. Tuesday was our first meeting with NYSEMO.

Attended by Division Directors of both SEMO and RII, we met to resolve current issues and to look to the horizon to forecast upcoming challenges. Here are a few items of general interest:

**Formalize the Comms Process** - The size and significance of New York City makes it tempting to work directly with the City on local issues but SEMO requests that we maintain the relationship of federal to state, and state to county/local for communications to ensure that critical, response-related information is effectively passed down the chain, and that the state role isn't marginalized.

**Quick Strike Meals & H2O** - NY State would like to have a logistics staging and distribution center nearby to service the population of Regions I and II from "Day One."

**Disaster Declaration Process** - NY State would like to receive training on the disaster declaration process. Training will be available for both State partners and RII personnel.

**Victim Repatriation** - In the event that victims from catastrophic disasters occurring in other parts of the country are to be relocated to NY, the upstate facilities of Stewart Airfield and Camp Smith will be used.

## WHAT IS THE IPS?

*"For the Homeland Security Management System to be effective and address long-range challenges across multiple disciplines, all homeland security partners should develop a planning capability that may also be employed during times of crisis."*

Guided by this Presidential Directive, the Integrated Planning System (IPS) fulfills the requirement for a standardized national planning process. It provides a basic framework for developing a series of products leading to a synchronized Federal plan. The IPS is a "how-to" guide for Federal departments and agencies to develop contingency planning documents that support State, local, and Tribal governments. Ultimately, the IPS provides a common Federal planning process made up of three levels of planning: strategic, operational, and tactical.

The IPS supports the development of a family of related planning documents: Strategic Guidance Statements (SGSs), Strategic Plans, Concept Plans (CONPLANS), Operations Plans (OPLANs), and tactical plans.

The target audience for the IPS is those Federal agencies with a role in homeland security, with a particular focus on agencies that rely on, or provide assistance, to other agencies.

Federal agencies with no existing planning processes are required to adopt the IPS. Although the IPS does not supersede any existing State, local, and Tribal planning Processes, it is the standard general planning system the Federal Government will use for scenario-based planning. It is designed to highlight commonalities among most planning processes, because planners often apply the same fundamentals to developing plans regardless of the objective or desired effect. As such, the IPS is compatible with many existing planning systems.

While State, local, and Tribal governments are not required to adopt IPS, they are the foundation of the homeland security planning process; and clearly their participation in integrated planning, and understanding, of this document is crucial.

Want to know more? Contact Preparedness Analyst Terra Flynn at [terrence.flynn@dhs.gov](mailto:terrence.flynn@dhs.gov)



## FEMA VETERAN LEADS UNION

IT and Telecom Specialist Arnold Davis, who has been with FEMA since its founding, was elected President of Local 2203, American Federation of Government Employees this week. Congratulations Arnold!



## FACES OF REGION II



If you've worked a Region II disaster in the past 18 years, you know Pat Lipp. She's the one with the answers. Got a problem with your timesheet? Credit card issues? "Ask Pat Lipp" is the constant refrain of a bustling JFO.

Pat joined FEMA in 1991 during Puerto Rico's "Three Kings" disaster. "At the time, my husband was teaching at the University of Puerto Rico. When FEMA put out the call for local hires, I was the first on line, and I ended up collecting and organizing the applications of the other applicants that day," Pat says. She soon became a mainstay of the Management Division Cadre.

By 1992, Pat and her husband had moved to Connecticut, but she returned to Puerto Rico for a flooding disaster that year. One Saturday, while working at the JFO, she got a call from FCO Marianne Jackson, requesting that she be in Albany for a snow emergency the following Monday. She agreed, arriving in Albany Monday morning in time for work, but she had only summer clothes for the snow emergency. "I thought I could make do until the weekend, when I would return home for boots, hats and gloves," she said. "But it snowed that weekend...and the three weekends after that. Finally I had to hit the mall, and on the next Monday I looked like a 'New Yorker.'" Pat is FEMA flexible.

Pat's been deployed to Texas (twice), Ohio, Kansas, Nebraska, Florida, Virginia and multiple times in New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

She gets great satisfaction from her HR work. "I absolutely love it when employees see me and say I 'hired' them. They're happy to see a familiar face and I love knowing local hires have been converted to DAEs."

Pat has a special affection for new DAEs, who she routinely guides and counsels. "Often it's just listening to a stressed out employee. Or, it can involve work with the ERO. It depends.

"I know a lot about FEMA, but most of all I know who to call when I don't know something."

